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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/336,339      | 06/18/1999  | PAUL DUBELSTEN       | 2151-51823          | 7516             |

7590 01/29/2002

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EXAMINER

VARGOT, MATHIEU D

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

1732

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2002

60

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

92-10

# Office Action Summary

|                                      |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Application No.<br><b>09/336,339</b> | Applicant(s)<br><b>DUBELSTEN et al.</b> |  |
| Examiner<br><b>M. VARGAS</b>         | Group Art Unit<br><b>1732</b>           |  |

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 30 <sup>DAYS</sup> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

## Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/13/01
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-167 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) 1-81 + 120-152 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- ☒ Claim(s) 82-119 + 153-167 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary, PTO-413                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                    |

Office Action Summary

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1. It is noted that applicant has elected Group II, the product claims for examination.

However, it is further noted that these claims require an additional species election, which hereby follows. The method claims are submitted to be separate or distinct in that the products can be made by other methods which do not necessarily require surface modification or gas treatment. Also, the processes which employ these steps form a mat, wherein many of the product species are not limited to mats, but could be other products such as fiber reinforced golf shafts or bicycle frames. Hence, the division between the process and product has been maintained. Concerning the product claims, the following different species have been identified.

2. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species A, claims 82-92, directed to a composite with a core and face layer;

Species B, claims 93-95, directed to a composite with fines and gradated flakes throughout the cross section;

Species C, claims 96-102, 112-117 and 153-167, directed to a composite board or product with a core and surface treated face layer;

Species D, claims 103-111, directed to a composite with a first core and face layer and a second core and second face layer; and

Species E, claims 118 and 119, directed to a composite product with a consolidated top and bottom layer and a non-consolidated core layer therebetween.

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Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

3. A telephone call was made to Mr. Slater on January 24, 2002 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Vargot whose telephone number is (703) 308-2621.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

M. Vargot

**MATHIEU D. VARGOT  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1300**

January 26, 2002